



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

# Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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## CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 20

### AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers had another good week for planting corn and soybeans, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Precipitation was spotty during the week, but many areas received some much needed rainfall. Other areas are getting very dry and there are concerns about seed germination and emergence. The first cutting of hay has begun with low yields being reported due to frost damage that occurred in April.

### FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were **5.7 days suitable for field work**. Ninety-four percent of the intended **corn** acreage has been **planted** compared with 77 percent last year and 69 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 95 percent has been planted in the north, 96 percent the central region, and 87 percent in the south. Sixty-six percent of the corn acreage has **emerged** compared with 53 percent last year and 52 percent for the 5-year average. Seventy-two percent of the intended **soybean** acreage has been **planted** compared with 36 percent last year and 43 percent for the 5-year average. Twenty-four percent of the soybean acreage has emerged compared with 14 percent last year and 22 percent for the 5-year average.

Fifty-nine percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **headed** compared with 64 percent for last year and 65 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 39 percent good to excellent compared to 76 percent last year at this time.

Major activities during the week included: applying nitrogen to corn, repairing equipment, spraying herbicides, cutting and baling hay, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

### LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

**Pasture condition** is rated 9% excellent, 55% good, 30% fair, 5% poor, and 1% very poor. Livestock remain in mostly good condition.

### CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Planted	94	78	77	69
Corn Emerged	66	34	53	52
Soybeans Planted	72	39	36	43
Soybeans Emerged	24	5	14	22
Winter Wheat Headed	59	31	64	65

### CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	0	4	22	62	12
Winter Wheat	6	16	39	35	4
Pasture	1	5	30	55	9

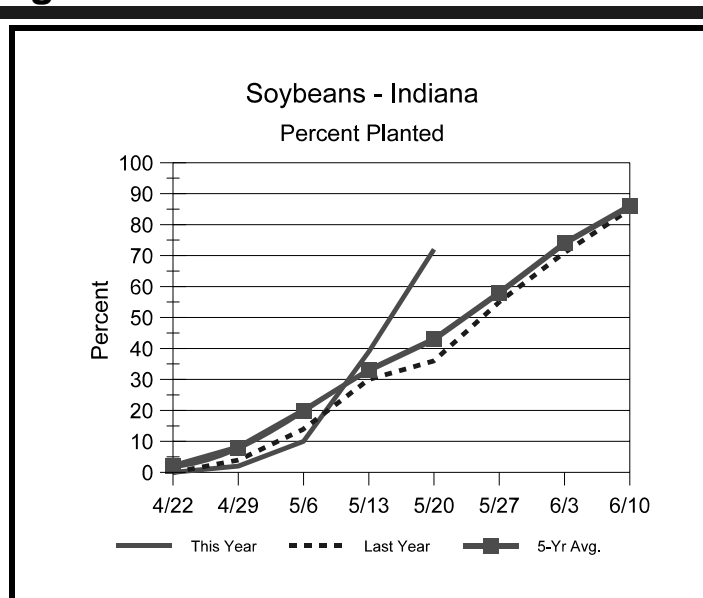
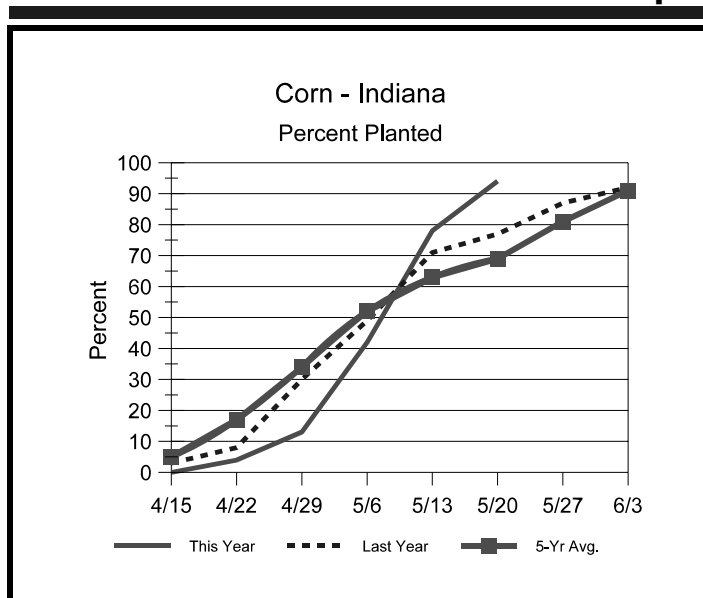
### SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	3	1	0
Short	18	12	0
Adequate	75	76	47
Surplus	4	11	53
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	0	0
Short	8	3	1
Adequate	86	84	65
Surplus	5	13	34
<b>Days Suitable</b>	5.7	5.9	0.9

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Crop Progress



## Other Agricultural Comments And News

### Dry Weather and Preemergence Herbicides

*Residual* preemergence herbicides applied at the time of planting are most effective when enough rain occurs within about a week or so after application to move herbicide into the upper few inches of soil where weed seeds are germinating (this assumes a weed-free start through use of tillage or burndown herbicides). Rainfall patterns in Ohio tend to result in frequent enough rains to ensure preemergence herbicide effectiveness, but exceptions to this occur in some years. Many areas of Ohio are currently experiencing one of these exceptions; growers should be aware of the possibility for preemergence herbicide failure.

When rainfall is scarce following preemergence herbicide application, weeds will escape herbicide treatments and start to emerge. These weeds are usually not well controlled by preemergence herbicides even if later rainfall occurs, especially for herbicides that move into plants via shoot uptake (when the shoot is above the soil, herbicide uptake no longer occurs). Most preemergence grass herbicides fall into this category, including all of the acetamides, such as metolachlor and acetochlor. Herbicides that are taken into the plant via roots (e.g. Balance, Callisto, atrazine) may still provide some control of emerged plants if rainfall occurs before plants have much size. Growers may be dealing with either of the following situations:

The crop has been planted and with preemergence herbicides applied around the time of planting, and it appears that insufficient rain has occurred or will occur within a week or so of herbicide application. This situation results in the probability that preemergence herbicides may provide less than acceptable weed control. Actions to take in this situation are: 1) rotary hoe the field just as weeds are starting to emerge, which will provide some control and essentially "buy some time" for a rain to occur and activate herbicides; and 2) scout fields and apply postemergence herbicides as necessary to control weeds that escape preemergence treatments. In corn fields where preemergence herbicides were fairly ineffective, postemergence herbicides should be applied when weeds are less than 4 inches tall to avoid risk of yield loss.

The crop has been planted, or will be soon, but preemergence herbicides have not been applied. In this situation, the decision is whether it is a good bet to go ahead

and apply herbicides, based on the assumption that it will rain soon, or alter the herbicide use strategy. Where the latter is being considered, two alternatives exist:

1). Most preemergence corn treatments that contain atrazine can be applied after the crop and weeds have emerged, and will adequately control small emerged weeds. The application can be timed after the first flush of weeds has emerged, which can amount to a significant portion of the weeds that will emerge in a season. This is essentially an "early-postemergence" treatment that still provides residual control once it receives enough rain, but it should be applied when weeds are 1 to 2 inches tall (grasses less than one inch) for best results.

2). Switch to a total postemergence herbicide program, typically applied when weeds are around 4 inches tall. This application occurs somewhat later than the early postemergence mentioned above, but including herbicides with at least some residual activity results in more effective control through the rest of the season.

The difference between approaches #1 and #2 – the first uses preemergence herbicides with limited postemergence activity applied to very small weeds, while the second uses postemergence herbicides that are more effective on larger weeds, but have less residual activity. Growers with Roundup Ready corn have the option to apply a mixture of glyphosate and residual herbicides anytime before weeds exceed four inches in height. Residual herbicide rates should be higher in approach #1, which is applied earlier in the season to smaller corn. Either one can work, but herbicide programs need to provide control through mid June, so plan weed management strategies accordingly.

In Roundup Ready soybeans, failure of preemergence herbicides often forces growers to make the initial postemergence glyphosate herbicide application earlier in the season, which can result in greater need for a second postemergence application to control later-emerging weeds. Planning for two postemergence applications is a more effective strategy than delaying the first application until weeds are larger, since weeds should be removed before they exceed about 6 inches in height to avoid soybean yield loss.

Dr. Mark Loux, Extension Specialist, OSU Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

(Additional Article on Page 4)

# Weather Information Table

**Week ending Sunday May 20, 2007**

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	April 1, 2007 thru May 20, 2007				
								Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
<b>Northwest (1)</b>												
Chalmers_5W	90	37	60	-3	0.74	2		4.99	-1.21	13	381	+51
Francesville	89	35	60	-2	0.64	3		4.98	-0.93	16	363	+81
Valparaiso_AP_I	89	39	61	+1	0.39	3		3.50	-2.92	12	364	+101
Wanatah	89	35	59	+0	0.68	2	65	6.08	-0.06	14	321	+97
Winamac	87	37	60	-2	0.71	2	66	5.69	-0.22	15	358	+76
<b>North Central(2)</b>												
Plymouth	88	35	58	-4	0.78	3		6.05	-0.25	17	321	+23
South_Bend	89	36	60	+1	0.67	2		5.28	-0.58	14	374	+128
Young_America	90	36	61	-1	0.48	2		4.11	-1.76	12	402	+126
<b>Northeast (3)</b>												
Columbia_City	88	36	57	-3	0.36	3	57	4.30	-1.54	16	306	+82
Fort_Wayne	91	35	61	+0	0.28	2		4.10	-1.48	19	378	+118
<b>West Central(4)</b>												
Greencastle	85	34	58	-6	0.26	1		4.93	-1.87	14	404	+38
Perrysville	90	36	62	+1	0.15	1	71	3.86	-2.61	14	494	+178
Spencer_Ag	86	37	58	-4	0.19	1		5.66	-1.49	15	417	+96
Terre_Haute_AFB	87	37	61	-3	0.04	1		4.98	-1.88	15	493	+129
W_Lafayette_6NW	90	35	61	+0	0.33	2	67	4.59	-1.69	14	421	+139
<b>Central (5)</b>												
Eagle_Creek_AP	85	42	61	-3	0.32	1		5.01	-1.29	15	496	+143
Greenfield	85	38	59	-4	0.44	2		6.24	-0.64	21	423	+109
Indianapolis_AP	86	39	61	-2	0.70	1		4.87	-1.43	17	497	+144
Indianapolis_SE	84	35	59	-5	0.54	1		6.72	+0.03	17	421	+87
Tipton_Ag	87	37	58	-3	0.06	2	68	4.27	-2.13	16	370	+120
<b>East Central(6)</b>												
Farmland	87	34	58	-3	0.44	2	62	5.29	-0.68	16	344	+103
New_Castle	86	38	58	-3	0.80	2		6.58	-0.37	14	381	+133
<b>Southwest (7)</b>												
Evansville	87	43	63	-4	0.19	1		6.33	-0.83	17	613	+126
Freelandville	86	42	61	-3	0.21	1		4.35	-2.82	15	527	+139
Shoals	88	37	59	-5	0.62	1		6.74	-0.81	17	482	+106
Stendal	87	42	63	-3	0.53	1		6.20	-1.61	16	631	+199
Vincennes_5NE	89	40	63	-2	0.28	1	67	4.67	-2.50	16	562	+174
<b>South Central(8)</b>												
Leavenworth	86	39	60	-4	0.48	1		7.16	-0.59	18	534	+151
Oolitic	85	38	58	-5	0.72	1	64	6.33	-0.80	15	444	+106
Tell_City	86	45	63	-3	0.35	1		7.26	-0.72	15	602	+154
<b>Southeast (9)</b>												
Brookville	86	40	59	-3	1.15	2		4.96	-1.94	15	474	+186
Greensburg	86	39	60	-3	0.74	1		5.74	-1.49	16	488	+161
Scottsburg	86	37	60	-5	0.37	1		8.01	+0.88	17	512	+120

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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## Fusarium Head Blight and Other Maladies of Wheat

- Current prospects indicate a healthy crop.

It's always a bit risky to make predictions about yields early in the season, but there are currently no major disease problems in Indiana's wheat crop and none on the horizon. So at least from the disease perspective, things look good for wheat. The crop is quickly approaching the flowering stage, and that is when Fusarium head blight (scab) gets started. Like most diseases, weather has a big influence on head blight. The head blight fungus, *Gibberella zeae* (aka *Fusarium graminearum*) survives the winter mainly on corn residue in Indiana. Even though there are a lot of corn stalks in Indiana, if weather is not favorable for production of spores and for infection of wheat, no head blight will appear. Fortunately, there is a weather-based risk model for Fusarium head blight. It is available at <http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/riskTool.html>.

The model uses weather for the previous 7 days to predict the risk of infection. It is intended to be used when wheat starts flowering and for a week or two after. Most wheat in Indiana has not yet started flowering, but will soon. Today (May 9), the model shows low risk for all of Indiana. When I ran the model using forecast weather for 24 or 48 hours into the future, which puts us closer to flowering, the risk is still low. This prediction makes sense. The fungus produces spores on corn residue in the spring, and these infect wheat while it is flowering and for a short time after. But, the fungus won't produce and release spores unless there are many hours each day when relative humidity is above 90%. Because of the dry weather we have had for the past few days and that is forecast for the next several days (scattered thundershowers notwithstanding), it is unlikely that head blight will develop. That could change if we have a spell of wet, humid weather while wheat is still in the watery ripe through milk stages of grain development, but right now, the outlook is for no head blight problem.

Indiana has just received a Section 18 emergency exemption for use of Folicur fungicide on wheat for suppression of head blight.

I have not yet received a copy of the label from the registrant, but I anticipate that it will allow a single application through beginning of flowering. Anyone who chooses to apply this product to wheat will need to have a copy of the Section 18 label in his or her possession at the time of application. Chemical dealers should have these labels for customers. Right now, however, the low risk of head blight suggests little benefit from use of a fungicide. The dry weather that is preventing head blight from developing is also keeping leaf blotch in check. Two different fungi cause leaf blotch: *Septoria tritici* and *Stagonospora nodorum*. During the past 20 years, *Stagonospora* leaf blotch has been the greater problem. We have seen some *Septoria* lesions on lower leaves (the 5th leaf below the flag leaf or lower). These leaves have largely deteriorated now. Neither of these leaf blights will spread to the upper leaves unless there are prolonged spells of rainy weather that keep foliage wet for 2 to 3 days at a time.

Powdery mildew may be present on susceptible varieties. It can be quite severe in the lower canopy without being evident on the flag leaves, so drive-by scouting is not effective. The disease will shut down tillers, so that even though a stand looks thick, the number of heads per acre will be much reduced compared to a healthy field. Most of our varieties have good to fair resistance to powdery mildew. The fungus doesn't like rainy weather or bright, sunny weather; it does best when weather is cloudy and somewhat humid.

Leaf rust is developing earlier and to a greater extent in the southern Great Plains than normal. However, in the southeastern states—from where our leaf rust spores tend to come—dry weather has limited the development of disease. Little disease there means fewer spores blowing north to infect our wheat. As with powdery mildew, most of our wheat varieties seem to have adequate resistance, but there may be a few susceptible ones.

Gregory Shaner, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

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